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Opening Statement of Chairman Gerald E. Connolly Subcommittee on Government Operations Hearing on “FITARA 15.0” December 15, 2022

Since enactment of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) in 2014, this Subcommittee has maintained consistent and vigilant bipartisan oversight of its implementation. Congress, Chief Information Officers (CIOs), agency heads, and outside stakeholders value the FITARA Scorecard. The Scorecard is a vital window into understanding how federal agencies across the enterprise of government perform in various IT acquisition and management categories. **Today, I present to you the Scorecard 15.0.** This year, 11 agencies earned C’s, 12 agencies earned Bs, and USAID remains the only agency to earn an A and we look forward to hearing more from Mr. Gray later today.

The Scorecard is the longest running, regular legislative IT oversight effort in Congress, and we are proud of that record, and from its inception, agencies have enhanced the authority and effectiveness of federal CIOs, bolstered cybersecurity, and significantly reduced wasteful spending—saving taxpayers nearly \$30 billion. Today, I want to highlight five ways the Scorecard’s relentless oversight has improved government services for the people we serve.

First, I am pleased to claim a big victory for the IT community in elevating CIOs within their agencies to ensure they are part of fundamental conversations about mission execution. In 2017, we added a CIO reporting authority metric to the FITARA Scorecard. This focused oversight drove the percentage of CIOs with a direct or partial reporting relationship from just 50% to more than 90%. Thanks to this success, today we will unveil the evolution of this category. For Scorecard 16.0, agencies will be asked to self-report their CIO’s control over IT spending and acquisition, in addition to the status of codifying their CIO reporting relationship. The updated CIO Reporting Authority category will ensure agency CIOs have both a seat, and a voice at the C-Suite decision-making table.

Second, the Scorecard directed agencies to provide a strategy for consolidating and optimizing their data centers. Since 2015, the federal government has closed more than 4,000 data centers, increasing data security through migration to the cloud and saving taxpayers roughly \$4.7 billion. Because of this success, Scorecard 15.0 has evolved to focus on how agencies justify their current data center posture.

Third, the Scorecard successfully pushed every agency to create a software license inventory. These inventories helped agencies eliminate wasteful software license duplication. We continue to work with GAO to determine the governmentwide cost benefits of the inventories, incentivize agencies to further reduce duplication, and look forward to their briefing update on this effort in the coming months.

Fourth, over the past seven years, the Scorecard has prompted agencies to increase their usage of an agile and more efficient project management strategy known as “incremental development” from 58% to 90% of projects. Historically, projects that use a “big bang” approach — that is, projects that are broadly scoped and aim to deliver functionality several years after initiation, often perform poorly. As a result, “incremental development” more effectively enables agencies to achieve early functionality, and ideally produces early warning signs if the project starts to go off track.

Fifth, the Scorecard has directed agencies to annually review their IT assets, saving more than \$25 billion. This process, known as PortfolioStat, has enabled CIOs to align their IT investments with their agency's mission and avoid unnecessary expenditures.

And as we celebrate the victories of the FITARA Scorecard, we must ensure its evolution and continued relevance.

Through GAO reporting, we know agencies can save 21% of their current telecommunications expenses by transitioning to a new contract system known as Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS). In Fiscal Year 2022, EIS saved federal agencies \$64 million. I am deeply disappointed, however, that most agencies failed to fully transition by the September 2022 deadline. I understand that the pandemic led to unexpected difficulties. But difficulty cannot stand in the way of mission delivery and service to the country. I expect, therefore, that agencies meet the upcoming 2023 deadline and transition to the new contracting vehicle.

Finally, I want to report an exciting update on the Scorecard's cyber component. **Since our last hearing on July 28th, the Subcommittee has worked diligently to obtain data that both accurately and securely assess federal agencies' cyber postures. I know this is an endeavor that every member on this dais can get behind. Today, I am very pleased to present our efforts and preview a first draft version of Office of Management Budget's new, publicly available cybersecurity metrics.** This previewed data is one step closer to our goal to shine a spotlight on cyber and underscores the importance of administering a rigorous cybersecurity oversight regime. **The Subcommittee plans to continue to work with stakeholders over the next six months to finalize a modernized cyber score using the IG reports and these new metrics for the FITARA 16.0 Scorecard.** In the meantime, after soliciting feedback from cyber experts and multiple discussions with community stakeholders, the Subcommittee has decided to keep previous cyber data from the July IG reports on the Scorecard, but grades will reflect an adjusted maturity model methodology.

This Subcommittee will not waiver in its continued oversight of agencies' IT acquisition and management. We must continue to reap dividends from modernizing legacy IT systems, migrating to the cloud, and maintaining a strong cyber posture. Congress and this Administration must work together to prioritize IT modernization and cybersecurity across the federal government to maintain our commitments to everyone we serve. I look forward to continuing the Scorecard and the longstanding tradition of bipartisan FITARA oversight in the 118th Congress.

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